

**OREGON ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO
THE U.S. COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
MEETING MINUTES**

March 4, 2017

The Oregon Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Committee) convened a conference call to familiarize members with updated project procedures and begin conversation about project topics. Thompson Faller chaired the meeting and performed the initial roll call of committee members present. The meeting was open to the public and took place from 1:09 PM to 2:11PM PDT.

State Advisory Committee Members:

Present:

- Thompson M. Faller, Vice chair
- Richard J. Elfering
- Fernando Gutierrez
- Kali T. Ladd
- Marcela Mendoza
- Joyce A. Waggoner
- Richard Russell Walker
- Ping Khaw

Absent:

- William T. Harbaugh
- Shoshanah Oppenheim
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Commission Staff present:

- Ana Victoria Fortes, Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
- David Mussatt, Regional Programs Unit Chief
- Angelica Trevino, Support Services Specialist

Members of the Public present:

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Meeting Notes/Decisions Made:

I. Welcome and Role Call

- Vice chair performed initial roll call.
- Vice chair inquired if there were any corrections needed on the March 2, 2017 meeting minutes and no corrections were raised.

II. Advisory Committee Orientation

- David Mussatt, Regional Programs Unit Chief shared a powerpoint presentation briefing Committee members on the background and responsibility of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, the responsibility of the State Advisory Committees, specific details regarding the civil rights project process, brought attention to frequently asked questions, and encouraged members to engage with the Commission via social media (Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/USCCRgov/> and Twitter <https://twitter.com/usccrgov>; @USCCRgov).

III. Discussion Regarding Potential FY17 Topics

- Fernando Gutierrez is interested in exploring if whether employment and training services is offered equally to job seekers, regardless of national origin. He believes that there is disparate treatment of farmworkers in the field though a lack of equitable outreach made by workforce centers to this population.
- Kali Ladd is interested in the topic of equitable educational opportunities and notes that there are disparities among students of color, especially among Native American, African American, Latino, and various Asian American communities. She is also interested in determining if there is disproportionate usage of school discipline, or “over-discipline” affecting these communities as well.
- Vice chair is interested in exploring the topic of human trafficking and the extent to which it is an issue in the state though does not indicate if a federally protected category is particularly affected.
- Richard Walker added that civil asset forfeiture is a topic of interest on a national level as it affects lower income and minority communities and incentivizes police officers to carry out as it funds their department budgets. He encourages exploring this topic to determine if it is an issue in the state.

IV. Public Comment

- No members of the public were present.

V. Next Steps

- Vice chair encourages Committee members to do additional research (reports, news articles, and speaking with other stakeholders) and send to DFO by April 27, 2017.
- Marcela and Fernando are interested in meeting to develop their proposal
- Next meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2017 at 1:00pm PDT

VI. Adjournment

- Kali Ladd motions to adjourn.
- Marcela Mendoza seconds the motion.